Maintenance Grant for National Highways

1056. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister- of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of maintenance grant Government releasing per k.m. for national highways;

(b) whether the present grant is adequate; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) is negative whether Government propose to enhance it ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIOAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) The requirements of funds for maintenance of National Highways are assessed on the basis of terrain, climate, road condition, traffic intensity and rates per kilometer in different States; but the amounts are released based on the available resources on pro-rata bas/s. The amount released during *the* last five years is indicated below:

Year	Amount released (Rs. in Crores)
1985-86	90-00
1986-87	92-88
1987-88	98-62
1988-89	141 26
1989-90	143 55

(b) Because of the constraint of esources, the present allocation is short of the assessed requirement.;~

(c) Enhancement of maintenance grant will depend upon availability of resources.

Abolition of death penalty

1057. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for abolition of death penatly in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise,

(c) The death penalty is only an alternative to life imprisonment for a few heinous offences and is awarded in the rarest of rare cases.

C-DOT project

1058. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS] be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 'C-DOT' project was assigned with the task of building advance telecommunication technology and telephone exchange equipment indigenously ;

(b) if so, to what extent it has achieved its object so far ; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating to wind up 'C-DOT and invite international manufacturers to supply its technologies and equipments?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL ! AND MINES WITH ADDITIONALL CHARGE A OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI) : (a) C-DOT has been